

COUNTRY

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TOPIC Soviet Supply Depot at Erfurt-Marbach

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 6 to 25 July 1952

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

25 November 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE) 1 sketch on ditto

REMARKS

REF ID: A651

DO NOT CIRCULATE

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25X1 1. The Soviet supply depot at Erfurt-Marbach, consisted of the former Erfurt Getreidesilo on the south side of Marbacher Strasse, the cold-storage building on Schlachthofstrasse, Nos 26 and 27 Nordhauser Strasse, and the Martin villa at 12 Marbacher Strasse which housed offices and quarters for the Soviet personnel.

2. The superior headquarters of the Erfurt supply depot is located in Erfurt. Major General Kolonichenko (fmu) who inspects the depot at long intervals belongs to this headquarters. There are also connections between the depot and the Erfurt town komendatura. A courier carries mail to Berlin-Karlshorst twice a month.

3. The unit operating the depot numbered about 120 men including 10 to 15 uniformed officers, some of whom were administrative officers, 1 veterinary surgeon and 1 paymaster; 10 to 15 Soviet civilians, some of whom with army rank; about 55 EM and NCOs; and 40 soldiers, about 20 years of age, who were in their second or third year of service and were employed as guard unit. Prior to 13 July, the guard unit consisted of only 21 men. Lieutenant Colonel Vasili Shevchenko (fmu), who wore red-bordered golden epaulets with artillery insignia commanded the unit. Shevchenko is of Jewish descent from the immediate vicinity of Moscow and was billeted in the Martin villa. Other uniformed officers included: Captain Vasil Poteskin who wore red-bordered golden epaulets and was the chief of the coldstorage building; Captain Zasha Molotnak (fmu) who wore red-bordered silver epaulets with intendance insignia; Captain Andrei Okinev, who wore red-bordered silver epaulets with intendance insignia; and Senior Lieutenant Dimitrov Kusnitsov who wore red-bordered golden epaulets with artillery insignia. Most of the other officers wore red-bordered silver epaulets with intendance insignia. They were billeted in the buildings with the offices on Nordhauser Strasse and in the Martin villa. They alternated their work between the offices and the supply depot. In addition, two Germans were permanently employed there as interpreters and workers. A large number of German workers had been discharged a long time ago.

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4. The following stock was at the depot as of 16 July 1952:

Building 1: Basement	5 tons of salt
ground floor	220 tons of flour
first floor	280 tons of flour
second floor	146 tons of flour
third floor	120 tons of millet
fourth floor	30 tons of barley
	150 tons of semolina
Building 2: Basement	30 tons of semolina
section 1	40,000 liter bottles of vodka, some of the bottles stored in building 4; potatoes are stored here during the winter.
sections 2 to 64	empty
Building 3: basement	empty; used as storage place for potatoes in winter;
section 1	about 50 tons of oats
section 2 to 63	empty
Building 4: basement	pneumatic rafts; 20,000 tarpaulins; field kitchen equipment including boilers, pails, plates, pots, and empty sacks
ground floor	20 carloads of cereals
	150 tons of sugar
	30 x 100-kg barrels of herring
first floor, south side	empty
first floor, north side	20 carloads of cereals
second floor, south side	1 ton of canned meat
	20,000 woolen blankets including blankets taken from German civilians.
second floor, north side	10 carloads of cereals 225 tons of sugar
third floor, south side	empty
third floor, north side	10 carloads of tobacco and cigarettes
	3 carloads of Russian tea
fourth floor, south side	about 70 sacks of dried onions
fourth floor, north side	0.5 tons of spices 1 ton of green coffee 0.5 tons of butter

Building 5

hay, about 20 German and Russian horses, horse-drawn vehicles and coaches.

Cold-storage house on Schleachhofstrasse: Frozen beef and butter.

5. The stocks are continually replenished by shipments arriving by rail on the spur track leading through the depot. The cars are sealed and guarded by Soviet soldiers and Volkspolizzi and are usually unloaded at night. The stocks at the depot included: flour from East Germany including some from the Soviet mills at Eltersdorf near Arnstadt, Turm, Wiesensels and Niesa; cereals from East Germany including Riesa; sugar from East Germany including Ositz, Thuringia; Polish sausage; rice, tea and spices from an army supply depot in Moscow-West; tobacco from the U.S.S.R.; cigarettes from East Germany, including some from the Katalcs cigarette factory and Payros factory in Breden; vodka from Moscow and Nordhausen; coffee and canned goods from undetermined locations; and other ration supplies from East Germany.
6. Shipments which arrived by rail on 21 July 1952 included:
  - 3 boxcarloads with 54 emergency rations, the first to arrive at the depot. They were packed in cellophane paper and consisted of 2 cans, sliced bread and another package with undetermined contents. Twenty-five rations were in a wooden box which bore the inscription Leningrad. The rations were good until 1955.
  - 2 boxcarloads with 30 tons of type-40% wheat flour;
  - 3 boxcarloads with 60 tons of semolina from Riesa;
  - 1 boxcarload with 10 tons of Russian tea and spices from the army supply depot Moscow-West.
7. The depot supplied Soviet units in Thuringia, presumably in all of Thuringia. However, units at the Jhrdruf-Crawinkel, the Leichtersdorf troop training grounds near Eisenach, in Gotha, the komendature in Arnstadt and Hundersdorf airfield were known individually. About 150 tons of ration supplies, with frozen meat, were delivered to the individual units per month. Ration supplies for 10 days were usually picked up by one truck per company, with each company having an average strength of 160 men. Supply sergeants would show a delivery order of their troop unit and would then be issued the supply which was handled by a loading detail. Sergeants checked the papers of all truck drivers

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The loading details of these trucks included soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery or tank insignia. They picked up supplies. Trucks [redacted] from Bindersleben airfield picked up ration supplies between 21 and 27 July. The loading details wearing black-bordered light-blue epaulets. [redacted]

On 24 July, a boxcarload of cereals, groats, flour, sugar, berries, canned goods and spices was dispatched to Drawinkel. [redacted]

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[redacted] the boxcar was consigned to the 7th Ltz Inf Regt 3

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1. [redacted] Comment. Major General Kolenichenko (fmu) possibly is I.S. Kolesnichenko who, as G's brigade General, was chief of the SGC Land Thuringia at the end of 1949. In March 1950, he was reported [redacted] to have been chief of a military office in Weimar. According to an edition of the Telegraf newspaper of 8 June 1950 in Berlin, Kolesnichenko was replaced by a civilian. It is conceivable that he was assigned to an office in the headquarters of the Rear Services of the Eighth Gds Army. In records of December 1948, one Lieutenant Colonel Shvchenko (fmu) was mentioned as deputy commander in charge of administrative affairs with the 117th Gds Ltz Rifle Regt of the 39th Gds Ltz Rifle Div. It cannot be determined whether this Shvchenko is identical with the Shvchenko mentioned in the report. A 7th Ltz Inf Regt is currently stationed in Thuringia.

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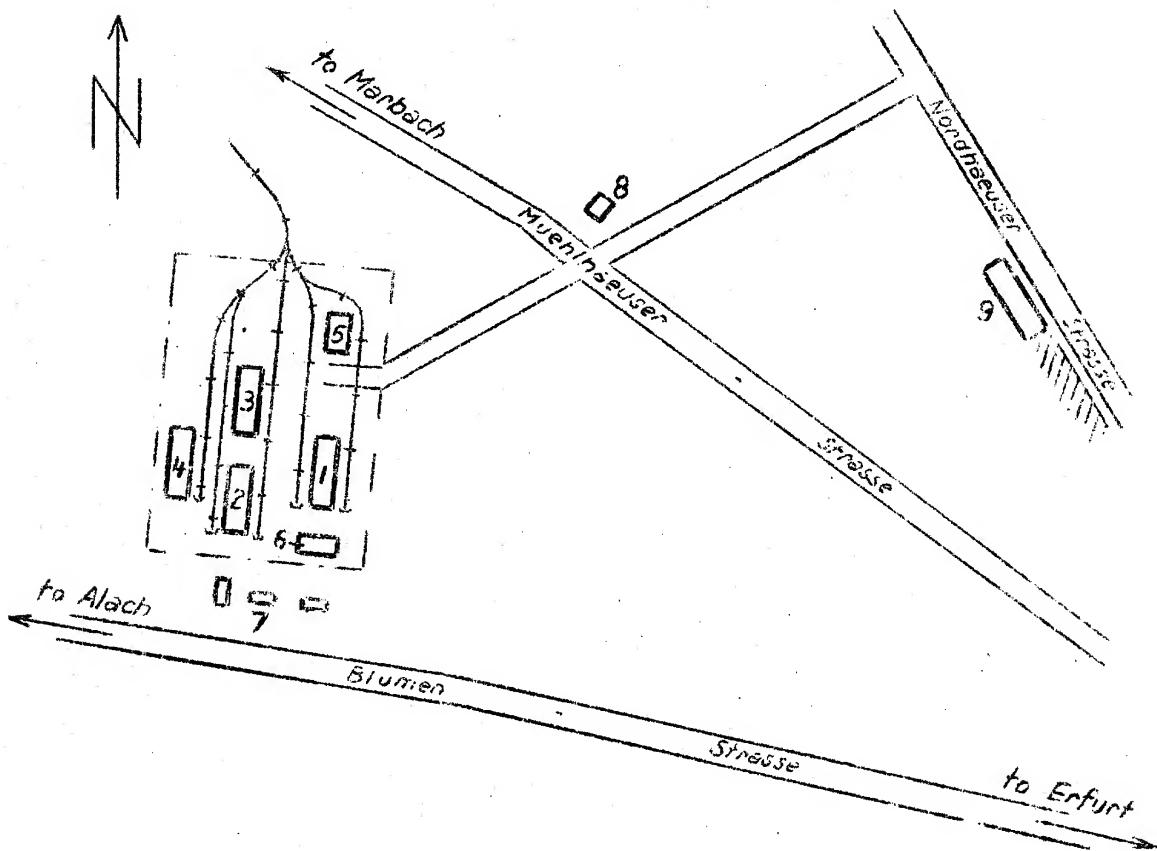
3. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the ration supply depot of the Eighth Gds Army in Erfurt-Marbach [redacted]. The statements regarding the ordnance of the depot are believed correct. The report indicates that about 1,000 tons of food were stored at the installation. This figure does not include the stocks of meat in the cold-storage house in Erfurt. The data on the origin of the supplies again confirms the fact that the Soviet Army draws its supplies almost exclusively from East Germany. Most of the units drawing supplies belong to elements of the Eighth Gds Army. The buildings are keyed to sketch attached as Annex.

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Soviet Ration Supply Depot at Erfurt-Altebach

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not to scale

For Legend see next page.

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Legend.

1. Brick warehouse consisting of basement, ground floor and 4 upper stories
2. Grain elevator consisting of basement, ground floor and 4 upper stories, with the entire building divided into 64 sections for grain storage; the grain is blown into the sections by means of pipes.
4. Brick warehouse
5. Stables and hay storage places
6. Guardhouse
7. Temporary wooden buildings used as NK quarters
8. Officers' billets
9. Office and billets for officers and NK office

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